# MIAMIBEACH

LETTER TO COMMISSION
201-2014

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE: June 10, 2014

SUBJECT: **"NEXT BUS" MOBILE APP FOR REAL-TIME TRACKING OF THE SOUTH BEACH LOCAL**

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide a status update on the installation of new modems on the South Beach Local (SBL) buses and the enhancement that this represents in regards to providing users with real-time tracking information.

Miami-Dade Transit (MDT) has finalized the installation and configuration of eleven (11) modems that were procured by the City and provided to the County for installation on all SBL buses. The modems will allow for the existing GPS units in the buses to report exact location at a rate considered "real time", more specifically every five (5) seconds. Previously, this feature had only been available for MDT's Route 288 "Kendall Cruiser" and Metrorail service.

Although the SBL schedule and route have been available for some time through MDT's free mobile application for both Iphone and Android smart phones as well as on the County's website, the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) information provided was based exclusively on a schedule (not taking into account the vehicle's location). As a result of the modems recently installed, the SBL ETA is now based on real time vehicle location.

To download MDT's free mobile application, the user may go to the application store on any smart phone and search for MDT Tracker or Miami-Dade Transit. The user may open the application and select the Bus Tracker option followed by the "Route 123 South Beach Local" option. The user will then be asked to select a direction and a specific stop location. Once a stop is selected, the ETA, bus number, and destination will be updated. An arrow icon corresponding to the bus number may be selected if a user wishes to visually identify the location of bus in relation to the selected stop. This feature will show icons of the buses hovering along the route. The SBL bus icons on the map are labeled "CW" for Clockwise and "CCW" for Counter Clockwise. When a stop is selected under the Map View option, a box will appear displaying information on the ETA of the next two (2) buses and connecting bus routes at that particular stop. A screenshot of MDT's SBL Tracker webpage has been attached for your reference.

It is important to note that although the tracking capability of the mobile app service allows the user to obtain real time ETA based on the selected stop location, the system displays the scheduled times for the buses, as a default, when real time ETAs are not available. As such, whenever the signal of the tracking unit is lost or during layovers, a scheduled time will replace the ETA in the display box of the mobile app.

City staff has identified potential opportunities to further improve the reliability of the mobile app and is working with the County to implement the changes. A quick link to the SBL Tracker has been added to the Transportation Department's webpage and is available on the City's mobile app page.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**Attachment:** Screenshot of MDT's SBL Tracker Webpage

KGB/JRG/JFG
F:\TRAN\$ALL\Transportation\South Beach Local\LTC – South Beach Local Modems Update

RECEIVED 2014 JUN 11 PM 2:32 CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

# ATTACHMENT (SCREENSHOT OF MDT'S SOUTH BEACH LOCAL TRACKER WEBPAGE)

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## Miami-Dade Transit

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## Bus Tracker

At this time, the new bus tracking service only tracks the real-time arrival times of the Route 288 Kendall Cruiser and the Route 123 South Beach Local.

To view the arrival times, scroll down the drop-down menu below and select your route, direction of travel, then your bus stop.

[123 South Beach Local ▼] [Clockwise ▼]

[WASHINGTON AV & 13 ST ▼]

**Next Clockwise Bus at:**

### WASHINGTON AV & 13 ST

view route information

| Est. Time | Bus # | Destination |
|-----------|-------|-------------|
| 0:10 sec | 6305 | SBL - SOUTH BEACH LOCAL S F |
| 12:56 min | Scheduled | SBL - SOUTH BEACH LOCAL S F |
| 25:56 min | Scheduled | SBL - SOUTH BEACH LOCAL S F |

**Current Time:** 4:17:05 PM

» Times shown based on estimated times of arrival

Access this page on your mobile devices at:
www.miamidade.gov/transit/mobile

**Clockwise** Bus# 6305 (4:16:49 PM)

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